

## Teachers Building Leaders Award - Introduction & Preliminary Report

December 30, 2015

### Cherishing our Teachers

The **Teachers Building Leaders Award**, sponsored by the McCall MacBain Foundation and presented and administered by the Loran Scholars Foundation recognizes primary and secondary school teachers who go above and beyond to develop character, service and leadership in their students. Exceptional teachers introduce their students to new ideas, inspire them with a desire to learn and encourage students to see and reach their full potential. Loran Scholars have had these exceptional teachers in their lives, and the Loran Scholars Foundation is pleased to present an award recognizing these early influencers.

### Overview 2015

The Teachers Building Leaders Awards program opened nominations to the graduating class of Loran Scholars in March 2015. Of the 27 graduating scholars, 15 submitted nomination essays for 29 primary, elementary and secondary school teachers in 24 schools who had made a significant contribution to their development as a leader of character. These essays were truly inspirational and moving. Background checks were made on all of the teachers, including contact with their school administration, prior to advising each teacher, their administrator and the scholar of their award.

The Office of the Governor General provides personally addressed letters of congratulations from His Excellency the Right Honourable Governor General David Johnston to each of the teachers, which are presented with the Teachers Building Leaders award certificate. The Loran Scholars Foundation has been working with the office of the Governor General to coordinate any presentations that may coincide with His Excellency's travel schedule. His Excellency has also provided video greetings, in both English and French, used at the conclusion of each of the presentations that he is unable to attend personally.

We are also grateful to the Rideau Hall Foundation who are providing additional support to assist in a detailed study of this initiative with an aim to share the model with other organizations.

Our first presentation took place on September 18, 2015 in Unionville, Ontario. To date, we have presented 9 awards and have 15 presentations planned for early 2016.



**Devon Jackson**

*W. Garfield Weston Loran Scholar '11*

"Undoubtedly, we will all go on to teach in our lives, regardless if it happens in a classroom or elsewhere. When I find myself in that place, I hope to emulate Ms Sims'

pedagogy: teach with care, teach with excitement, teach with kindness. Those pillars will support an education that breathes life into any student wishing to explore the world."

*Je vous remercie pour toutes les démarches que vous avez faites pour me permettre de vivre ce grand moment. C'est avec émotion que j'ai accepté ce prix qui, pour un enseignant déjà retraité depuis cinq ans, est un véritable cadeau du ciel. Cette gentille reconnaissance de Jérémy vient mettre une belle finale à une carrière que j'ai vécue avec passion. Merci à la Fondation Boursiers Loran pour cette belle initiative qui, je l'espère, pourra permettre à d'autres enseignants de vivre un tel moment.*

*Sincèrement  
Jean Lapointe*

*Primary school teacher (ret.) to Jérémy Boulanger-Bonnelly  
(W. Garfield Weston Loran Scholar '11)*

## Teachers Building Leaders 2015 Highlights

Each presentation to date has had a unique format, generally based upon the recommendation of the school administration, or the available timing of the event. In every case, the nominating scholar presents the award to their teacher, and gives a short (10-15 minute) speech on why they have nominated this particular teacher and the impact they have had on their life.

Our first presentation was made by **Sarah Burns** (Ralph M. Barford Loran Scholar '11) to Mr. Brent Scagnetti in front of the entire student body (1,750 students) and faculty of Bill Crothers Secondary School, representatives from the York Region School Board and Mr. Scagnetti's parents, wife and children. Mr. Scagnetti taught Sarah in grade 6 at Unionville Public School, prior to transferring to Bill Crothers Secondary School. Sarah is also an alumna of Bill Crothers Secondary School. The event was emceed by the school's principal, Rose Walker and included presentations by Sarah, an inspiring speech by Mr. Scagnetti, the Assistant Superintendent of York Region Board of Education and closed with the video greeting from the Governor General of Canada.

In her speech, Sarah described the inspiration and strength she received from her mentor:

*"He gave us the freedom and support to let his students find their own potential as a leader and a student. Much more importantly, Mr. Scagnetti always challenged me. He would challenge my views, my abilities and my work, in a way that has made me tenacious and very thoughtful in the work that I do in my daily life. He was the first teacher who truly helped me formulate my views on the world."*

The event was covered by the Markham and York Region media and published in the local newspaper and online blog. In October, Sarah was selected as a 2016 Rhodes Scholar. An article about Sarah and Mr. Scagnetti, written by acclaimed educational journalist, John Lorninc, will be published in January, 2016.

**Carly Welham** (W. Garfield Weston Loran Scholar '11) from Gimli, Manitoba nominated her primary school teacher, Patricia Stouffer and secondary school teacher, Scott Powers. Following contact with the teachers and their school administration, we were contacted by the Evergreen School Division superintendent, who was so proud of the recognition of two of their teachers, that the district asked if they could host the presentation as a larger, more public function, rather than in each of Carly's schools. Over 200 district faculty, students, administrators, media and the teachers families attended the presentation as a part of the District Board's quarterly meeting.

*I will remember him (Mr. Powers) for the level of respect with which he treats his students. Treating his students as already important and contributing members of society was instrumental in helping young leaders reflect upon their role in both our school and community.*

**Carley Welham, W. Garfield Weston Loran Scholar '11**



Sarah Burns (Ralph M. Barford Loran Scholar '11) presenting the Teachers Building Leaders Award to Mr. Brent Scagnetti.

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**Two Gimli teachers honoured for developing young leaders**

Danya Dziedzic and Carly Welham, extreme left and right, presented teaching awards to Gimli teachers Patti Stouffer and Scott Powers (centre).

By Roger Newman

It is only rarely we learn we are appreciated and have an impact on others. But that intelligent moment came last Wednesday night for teachers Scott Powers of Gimli High School and Patti Stouffer of George Johnson Middle School.

They were in the spotlight at the latest Evergreen School Board meeting where they received Loran Teaching Awards from one of their former students Carly Welham.

The awards go to teachers building future leaders who leave high school with prestigious four-year, full ride Loran scholarships to attend Canadian universities.

Welham personally nominated the two Gimli teachers for Loran teaching awards because of the influence they had on her development during her years at Evergreen schools. She won a Loran student scholarship and recently graduated after four years at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

The UBC grad came home, however, to make the presentations to her pre-university teachers at a school board evening described as a "very special occasion" by Evergreen Superintendent Russa Gray. Before proud relatives of both Welham and the teachers, the Toronto-based Loran program was explained by Danya Dziedzic and then Welham presented the awards to the two teachers.

Dziedzic, a graduate of Inwood school, won a 2009 Loran Scholarship to take a science degree at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick, and is now a development coordinator for Muscular Dystrophy Canada in Winnipeg. Welham, for her part, is now studying for a Master of Public Health degree at the University of Victoria after completing First Na-

tions and gender studies at UBC.

When the night's presentations were made, Welham said Stouffer and Powers exemplify Evergreen's goal of graduating students who become contributing citizens to a democratic society. She said Stouffer set her on the path of developing character and personality traits while Powers brought human rights issues into the classroom and displayed a deep level of care and respect for students.

Topping off the evening was a video of congratulations to the teachers voiced by Canada's Governor-General David Johnston.

More on Page 2

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On October 6, the Governor General of Canada hosted a private presentation to Loran Scholar, Jérémy Boulanger-Bonnelley's teachers, Jean Lapointe and Pascale Hémond. The event, hosted in the private dining room at the Governor General's official residence at La Citadelle in Québec City, included Jérémy and his parents, M. Lapointe and his wife and children, Mlle Hémond, her best friend and the principal of her school, and Loran alumnus Graham Fox. His Excellency welcomed the gathering and spoke about the significance of teachers in Canada, and invited Jérémy to describe how these teachers had inspired him and other students in the schools. M. Lapointe, Mlle. Hémond and the principal of her school spoke with the Governor General about their experiences and challenges as teachers today.



## Observations & Learnings 2015

As the first year of this three-year pilot initiative, we are impressed by the clear success in terms of recognition of the specific teachers, the significance to the scholars and the potential powerful impact on their wider communities.

We received exceptional support from most administrators and the local school boards who are grateful for the positive recognition of the teacher, and by extension recognition of all teachers and their impact on students. As a new award, we did encounter some understandable initial hesitation from a few administrators to include an award presentation with another school-wide presentation and some administrators were hesitant for "internal political" and union recognition reasons. The participation of the Governor General helped to elevate the perceived significance of the award and as the award becomes more widely known, we expect this will not continue to be an issue.

The recipients of the Teachers Building Leaders Awards themselves embody the principles of character, leadership and service to the community. They are all extraordinarily humble, immediately share any accolades with their fellow faculty, and have an impact on many of their students.

*I am Humbled, Madeleine was an amazing young lady, and we are all very proud of her accomplishments.*

*Louise Shervey*

*Ecole Secondaire Sainte Marguerite d'Youville  
(Loran Scholar, Madeleine Pawlowski's Grade 7 Teacher)*

The scholars are deeply grateful to have the opportunity to recognize and thank the teachers who made a difference in their growth and it has been one of the most welcomed new initiatives.

Thank you. To say I am speechless would be the greatest understatement. Young people like Carly Welham make it easy to do what we do and I am most grateful to her for her nomination

Scott Powers, Gimli Manitoba

Having only the graduating class nominate their teachers has been very successful. It is a wonderful time for the scholars to reflect on their growth and the impact that some teachers, who pushed them out of their comfort zones, may have had on them. Scholars were invited to nominate up to three teachers in 2015. Based upon the nominations this year, we plan to reduce this maximum number to two nominations each for 2016.

Our greatest challenge this year has been scheduling the presentations. Launching the program in March presented several challenges: March/April are very busy times for graduating scholars when final exams, applications for graduate school, applying for summer jobs, etc. are their primary concerns. As a brand new initiative, our scholars had not anticipated the time required for a nomination and we had not considered their busy schedules appropriately. We received confirmation of His Excellency's participation at the beginning of June but with the advent of the end of the school year, this is obviously a challenging time to reach school administrators - particularly to ask to add another presentation to their schedules.

To resolve these challenges, we launched the nomination process and confirmed the participation of the Governor General in the beginning of December and have set the deadline for submissions on January 5, 2016. We will begin the reference checks, confirmations and planning the presentations early in the new year, and hope to schedule the majority of the presentations before scholars embark on their summer work / travel and the school year is complete.

The variety of presentations we hosted to date has given us some insight on the formats that will have the greatest impact on students, teachers and the wider community. We believe that it is imperative that the nominating scholar presents the award to their teacher(s) - their impact statement is key to relating to, and hopefully inspiring, the students watching the presentation. We believe it is also important that the teacher(s) receiving the awards are given notice of the award and are prepared to participate as speakers in the presentations to effectively relate to the other faculty and to the students. Obviously, larger-scale presentations, in front of other faculty and students, have the most potential impact on the wider community of students, teachers and the public. Over the 3-year pilot, we will be monitoring applications to the Loran Award specifically in the regions where teachers have received this year's Teachers Building Leaders Award, to assess potential impact from the events. The letters from the Governor General and video greeting lend a national significance of the presentation. The presentation by the Governor General at La Citadel was a great honour for the teachers and their families, and His Excellency's participation does offer wider media participation potential. We will continue to work with the office of the Governor General in the hopes of hosting presentations with His Excellency in full-school assemblies or public presentations.



## Looking forward to 2016

As we move into our second year of the Teachers Building Leaders Awards, we aim to refine the nomination and presentation logistics, increase visibility through media, and to begin a more detailed study on the impact the awards may have on the teachers, students and wider community.

Twenty-five graduating scholars from Torbay, NL through Hudson Heights, QC, Birtle, MB to Nanaimo, BC will nominate their hometown teachers for the 2016 Teachers Building Leaders award in January. We are looking forward to sharing many more wonderfully inspiring stories on the significant impact these teachers are making to the development of young Canadian leaders and their communities.



**Laura Thorne**

*Scace Loran Scholar '11*

"Mrs. Mulder introduced me to new ways of thinking about thinking, writing and reading that I had not been exposed to but that have since become the touchstones of my education. Her impact also reached outside the classroom. She is the epitome of an active citizen, an active community member...who taught by example, and in doing so, passed on valuable lesson about responsibility, engagement and respect that still inform my character today."